FD-36 (Rev. 5-27-63)

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele Room
Holmes
Gandy

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

# FBI, Secret Service Need Study

B-29

By Drew Pearson

There are three Government agencies that are sacrosanct as far as congressional investigation or criticism is concerned: the FBI, the Secret Service and the Central Intelligence Agency. In the interest of protecting the life of the President, however, it is my belief that a rigorous investigation of the first two should be undertaken.

Pearson

Here are some facts that should be investigated:

The Secret Service—Six Secret Service men charged with protecting the President were at the Fort Worth Press Club early in the morning of Friday, Nov. 22, some of them until nearly 3 a.m. This was the day that President Kennedy was assassinated. They were drinking. When they departed, three were reported en route to an all-night beatnik rendezvous, "The Cellar."

The Secret Service, which has done a notably good job in the past, prides itself on having men who will give their lives for the President. They are charged with throwing their own bodies in front of the President in case of attack.

For the sake of maintaining its splendid reputation, the Secret Service should disclose to the public the names of these six men, lest their behavior reflect on the entire organization. Additionally, it should make known what disciplinary action, if any, it proposes to take toward them.

Obviously, men who have been drinking until nearly 3 a.m. are in no condition to be trigger alert or in the best physical shape to protect anyone.

It has been stated that it was an impossibility for the Secret Service to check the occupancy of every building along the route. While this is true, it is also true that warehouse-type buildings, such as that in which the assassin hid, should be searched, and the extra time spent by Secret Service men at the Fort Worth Press Club could have been spent in doing so.

## Fort Worth Press Club

What happened at Fort Worth was that the Press Club, which is supposed to close at 10 p.m. under local liquor laws, sent word inviting Vice President Johnson and Gov. Connally, both honorary members, to come over, and on that excuse stayed open after hours. Neither Johnson nor Connally accepted the invitation but the Club stayed open anyway.

When I asked Calvin Sutton, president of the Club, he explained that "A lot of big bylines were in town whom we had heard about but never seen in person, so we took the liberty of staying open. We shouldn't have done it, but we did.

"Some of our correspondents then passed out guest cards to [illegible] President's party. I didn't know [illegible] the Secret Service men were being invited and a lot of them surprised me when they arrived, but they all had guest cards. They got in about 11 or a little later."

Sutton said it was 3 a.m. when he locked up and the Secret Service men left ahead of him.

"They wanted to know where 'The Cellar' was, and I told them. But I did my best to discourage them. I don't know whether they went or not."

Sutton said they seemed to be in pretty good shape when they left.

## File of Suspects

The FBI—In Dallas, police stated that the FBI had interviewed Lee Oswald but had not informed them about the interview. In Washington, the FBI denied they had interrogated Oswald recently.

Whether he was interviewed recently or a long time ago, it is the job of the protective agencies of government to check on each suspect in any city the President visits and to make sure where he is at the time of the visit.

A man who had been head of a Fair Play for Cuba Committee, who had professed Marxism, and whose record showed a mixed-up, unsteady emotionalism, should have been kept under careful watch on the day the President entered his city—one of the most lawless and violent cities in the United States.

The Secret Service keeps a file of people who have written threatening letters to the President or who are either wise suspect. If Oswald was not on their list, the FBI should have communicated with the Secret Service after they interviewed him.

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photographs of Oswald pass[illegible] and good-size footprints were found on [illegible] the [illegible] and the secret Service should have been able to take care of him without too much trouble.

It is true that there has been a [illegible] Dallas has kept the lid on the Secret Service. Now [illegible] they are [illegible] it. If they had spoken out they might [illegible] the [illegible] and [illegible] at least where the life of the President is concerned.

The Dallas Police. I was in Dallas on the fatal day President Kennedy was shot. I was not there when his alleged assassin, Lee Oswald, was shot. But newsmen who were on the scene in the basement of the Dallas Police Station inform me that it is inconceivable that the police did not know Jack Ruby was inside.

Most newsmen had to show their credentials to two police guards to enter the basement. It was more difficult to get into that the White House. Yet a striptease night club operator with a police record of arrests for assault and for carrying concealed weapons was let inside.

The Dallas police record shows that Ruby had been in trouble chiefly for having a violent temper and jumping on people. This is not the kind of a man normally allowed in police headquarters when the most important defendant in Texas history is being transferred. How did it happen? Only it can be explained by the Dallas police. But a bipartisan, [illegible] congressional committee should probe to the bottom.

[illegible]